

Outline for Give and it Will Be Given to You

I. Introduction

- a. The world's chase for money
- b. The Bible's view of how to receive money

II. Jesus' Sermon in Luke 6

- a. The outline of His sermon
- b. The heart of Jesus' sermon
- c. How giving and receiving plays into it

III. The Idea of Giving and Receiving

- a. The Lord takes our giving seriously
- b. He will always repay
- c. Reaping what we sow

IV. Things to Be Careful of In Giving

- a. Having a greedy attitude (giving only to receive)
- b. Having a grudging attitude (God loves a cheerful giver)
- c. Having a haughty attitude (giving to get a good reputation)

V. Who to Give to

- a. People in need or who God lays on your heart to bless
- b. Not people who are lazy and will spend the money on reckless things

VI. Summary

- a. The heart of giving is love
- b. God will always come through for us. His Word never fails
- c. Being careful to have the right attitude when giving
- d. Having discernment as to when and who to give to.
- e. It's a command!



Give and it Will Be Given to You

By Jenny Rose Curtis



In every society, culture, and nation, there is a common goal, happiness. Every man, woman, and child has his or her heart set on the things that they believe will bring them happiness. In America, the most common ones are power, having a family, being successful, and, the greatest one, money. America, being a prosperous nation, is driven by wealth and the security it brings. The common quest in almost every person is get money and lots of it. They do this by getting a job, receiving an inheritance, investing, stealing, selling things, and every other way they can think of. The one thing that they don't do to get money is to give it away. But, ironically enough, that's exactly what the Bible says to do! Isn't it just like God to give us a command that is the exact opposite of what the world tells us? And why shouldn't He? The world is sinful and fallen and God is perfect and just. The Bible tells us countless times about giving and receiving back, reaping and sowing, and lending and being rewarded. Luke 6:38 says, *"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

The Bible, being the inerrant Word of God, tells us that he who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he's done (Proverbs 19:17). The Lord isn't a bad businessman; He *always* fulfills His promises to the letter.

This verse comes from a sermon that Jesus gave right after healing and casting demons out of many people. After displaying His power and authority, Jesus gives the beatitudes, the blessings and the woes. He talks about how wonderful our reward in Heaven is and how those who are persecuted will not go without reward. Jesus goes on to talk about repaying our enemies good for their evil. He tells us to love them, to pray for them, to turn the other cheek, and even to lend without expecting anything back! He says to be merciful because His Father is merciful, and not to judge so that you too won't be judged. Here is when He says to give and it will be given to you. *After* He talks about loving both God and others. After this, He gives a parable about trying to get the speck out of your brother's eye while there's a giant plank in your own. The blind cannot lead the blind! Not to mention, a man will be judged according to the fruit in his life, whether good or bad. To close, He gives another parable about a man who puts Jesus' words into practice and a man who doesn't. The former stood firm to the end, but the latter was destroyed and brought to utter ruin. *This* is the context of the verse about giving and receiving because of it. It's not a random promise that falls into every man's lap. Jesus discusses love, mercy, hope, forgiveness, *and then* giving. Giving that brings blessing is accompanied by a heart of love and a life that follows the rest of Jesus' commands, not just the ones that we want to glamorize.



Understanding the heart of giving should open our eyes to see just how seriously the Lord takes it. The Bible, being the inerrant Word of God, tells us that he who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he's done (Proverbs 19:17). The Lord isn't a bad businessman; He *always* fulfills His promises to the letter. When God says He will repay, you can be sure that He will repay. Paul says in Galatians 6:7, "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*" We are deceived if we doubt for a second God's ability

and His promise to repay what we have sown in. As natural as it is to reap what we sow, sometimes we don't see its fruit right away. But God is faithful. We can fully rely on His Word and that He will stand by it to the end.

There are some things to be careful of, however when giving. We can't take giving for granted. I've seen plenty of people make the mistake of giving money away for all the wrong reasons. One of those wrong reasons is greed. Just because God says that when we give we will be blessed doesn't mean that we should give *so* that we can get. Jesus' whole point with the sermon in Luke 6 wasn't to give us a surefire way to get rich, but rather to show us what our hearts should look like. Proverbs 3 tells us that if we tithe out of all of our wealth, our barns and vats will overflow with profit. But does that mean that we're supposed to tithe so that we can get some extra cash? Of course not! When we give to the Lord out of our hearts, the Lord gives out of His heart! As He says in Matthew 7, He will provide our every need.

God loves it when we give because we want to, out of love.

Another wrong attitude to watch out for is resentment. *“Every man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver,”* (2 Corinthians 9:7). This shows us that God doesn't appreciate it when we give out of resentment or when we give “because we have to.” God loves it when we give because we want to, out of love. Resentment causes frustration, not blessing.

Sometimes the best thing you can give is a humble, sweet, heartfelt gift, no matter how small it is.

The third attitude to avoid, and most prevalent I believe, is giving to get a good reputation. Sometimes people will make sure that everyone sees that they're

giving so that they can be thought well of. Jesus rebukes this multiple times with the Pharisees. One parable He gives is about two men going to pray at the temple. The first, a Pharisee, throws his face and hands up towards the sky and prays a proud prayer in a loud voice for all to hear. The second, a man lower on the prestige ladder, bows with his face to the ground and beats his chest, begging the Lord for forgiveness and mercy. Jesus says that the latter received grace from the Father, while the second was despised. This parable should be a warning, even in the area of giving. When we give money away, people don't need to always know or see how much is being given. Sometimes the best thing you can give is a humble, sweet, heartfelt gift, no matter how small it is.

The Holy Spirit never contradicts the Bible, which stands firm forever to the end of the ages.

Now that we've established the heart condition of giving, how do we know *who* to give to? It's not always easy to determine who we should give to and who we shouldn't. Thankfully, Jesus, when He ascended into Heaven, left with us the Holy Spirit, our Counselor. With His help, we can discern who gets what. But the Holy Spirit never contradicts the Bible, which stands firm forever to the end of the ages. There are some good biblical guidelines to follow that will help you in your discernment. 1) Don't give to people who are known for being lazy and aren't about to change. These people are talked about numerous times in the Bible as going hungry and are told to go out and work for the food that they eat. God takes hard work seriously and laziness is not an option with Him. 2) Don't give money to people who will spend it on things that are wrong or just plain useless. My dad has a rule that people who come to the church asking for money for gas, food, or clothes can't receive actual money, but should ride with someone in the church to a store to buy them what they need. This is smart because many times these people are looking for extra money for alcohol or drugs. Many people have said never mind to my dad after his proposition. 3) Give to people who have a real need. Not being able to afford a down payment on a sports car is *not* a need, nor is it a necessity. There is nothing wrong with buying people drinks or food or gifts. There's even nothing wrong with buying someone something big that's not necessarily a necessity! But if you're looking into helping someone out financially in a big way, make sure that you're giving to them because they need it and that the Lord is okay with it. Sometimes, it's not our place to give right then. That

doesn't mean we close off our hearts to these people. No, we should always have compassion and always be praying for people with needs.

**He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
but he who sows generously will reap
generously.**

When we give to people who need it, we give to the Lord and He is truly blessed by it. In the end, Jesus will say to us that everything we did to the least of those which are His, we did to Him. That is why the Lord takes our giving so seriously and that is also why He is serious when He says He will reward us, whether in this life or the one to come. He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, but he who sows generously will reap generously. That's God's heart towards giving and it should be ours also! Of course, we can't give to every single person we meet and we can't always come through for all of a person's need. But if we trust God and give with cheerful hearts, He will see it, He will love it, and He will reward it.